India and foreign interference in India's internal matters was discussed with the Russian President.

(b) President Yeltsin, in response, stated that India must keep its integrity, must stay united and undivided. He added that Russia intended to support India in its position on Kashmir.

Dissolution of the SAARC

1770. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
SHRI IQBAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government considers that SAARC has become redundant due to hostile activities by Pakistan and other member countries against India which is a prominent member of the Organisation;

(b) if so, whether Goverment proposes to suggest for the dissolution of the SAARC; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) No Sir. In terms of SAARC Charter bilateral and contentious issues between member States are strictly excluded from SAARC deliberations. SAARC has thus been insulated from bilateral controversies in order to be able to concentrate fully on selected programmes of regional cooperation. All SAARC decisions including items to be covered or discussed are governed by the principle of unanimity. India remains firmly committed to the Charter of SAARC and SAARC as an organisation which will foster regional stability and progress.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending Passport Application in Hyderabad

1771. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport applications pending with Hyderabad Passport Office; and

(b) what steps are being taken to expedite the issue of passports in Hyderabad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) The number of passport applications pending in the Hyderabad Passport Office as on 12-2-93 was 31,314.

(b) Government have taken a number of measures to expedite the issue of passports which *inter alia* include increasing the supply of booklets, augmenting the staff strength and streamlining procedures for issue of passports.

जकार्ता में हुए गुट-निरपेक्ष सम्मेलन में कश्मीर का मुद्दा उठाया जाना

1772. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पाकिस्तान ने जकार्ता में आयोजित गुट-निरपेक्ष सम्मेलन में काश्मीर का मुद्दा उठाने का प्रयास किया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रया क्या है और

(ग) क्या इस अवसर पर भारतीय और पाकिस्तानी प्रतिनिधियों के बीच कोई बातचीत हुई थी और यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह) : (क) जी हाँ

(ख) भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमण्डल ने उत्तर देने के अपने अधिकार का प्रयोग किया और बलपूर्वक कहा कि कश्मीर भारत का एक अभिन्न और अविच्छेद्य अंग है तथा हमेशा रहेगा। अगर पाकिस्तान भारत के साथ बातचीत करना चाहे तो शिमला समझौते में संबंधित किसी भी विषय पर बातचीत की रूप रेखा मौजूद है। भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमण्डल ने इस बात का भी उल्लेख किया कि पाकिस्तान ने गुटनिरपेक्ष